



BRAZOS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



AMATEUR RADIO FOR SOUTHWEST HOUSTON AND FORT BEND COUNTY

JULY 2003

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 7

The Story of the 146.28-88 Repeater, Part 1

Leon Vice, W5VCE/W5OBC as provided to Pump Fawcett, WA5CYI

There were a dozen or so stations operating on 147.3 MHZ FM on January 1, 1965. This activity was primarily started by Pasadena for RACES. At about this time Bill, WA5BSB, and Jerry, K5IHK, turned up with Bendix FM rigs with 146.88 MHZ crystals.

A small group started looking for rigs to start a new FM frequency for Houston. We finally got Motorola to agree to let us have nine FMTRU80D's for \$30.00 each, as is, while Karl, WA5ABA, was in Dallas attending a Service School. Karl brought the rigs back to Houston and the serious work of the new net began.

These nine rigs were obtained February 25, 1965. Thirty more were obtained March 26, 1965. Bill, WA5BSB, Forrest, WA5BSD, and Jerry, K5IHK, made a trip to Dallas to get the 30 rigs. Ed Bailey got one of these 30 and once we got Ed on 2 meter FM, a repeater wasn't far behind. Eight more rigs were obtained April 23, 1965; then the last twelve on May 25, 1965, making a total of 59 rigs obtained from Motorola. After the first group of rigs were acquired, there was so much interest that it became necessary to keep a list of people who wanted rigs so that as they became available from Motorola, they could be distributed fairly. Jim Shotwell, WA5BUV, got this thankless task of keeping the list and distributing the rigs. By December 6 of 1965 there were 82 active stations on 146.88 MHZ FM with 40 mobiles represented.

Interest and discussion of a repeater station had developed to a point that a rig was chosen out of the 12 units received May 5, 1965 for conversion to a repeater station. It is difficult to comprehend why there were two dozen or more mobile stations by this time, because the range was sure nothing to shout about. Any way, it was evident that a repeater sta-

tion was sorely needed for any reasonable mobile performance on 2 meters. For mobile to mobile it was a must.

By this time we had Ed, W5SDA, interested in the technical aspects of a repeater, so the unit was turned over to Ed. Everyone who had any of the parts needed to convert the old mobile rig to an A.C. repeater station contributed to the cause and crystals were ordered to set the repeater up for 146.28 in and 146.88 out. On approximately May 15, 1965, the

repeater was ready for trial, set up at Ed's house. The antenna situation was real "Mickey Mouse", but the test was highly successful.

Then came the big problem. How could we get this illegal contraption on a high building downtown where it would do some good. Ed finally convinced Bert, W5HJL, into sneaking it up on the Gulf Building where he was the engineer of a FM station. This installation occurred in July, 1965, as

near as I can establish. Just about the time we were getting all the bugs ironed out, we got the news that everything had to be cleared off the Gulf Building to make room for the "big orange lollipop" (Gulf Sign).

The repeater installation had to come down approximately August, 1965. This was rather discouraging, but word leaked out. Wiley, K5DFZ, engineer at KPRC, thought it might be possible to get the repeater on the KPRC tower at DeWalt. This sounded too good to be true, but sure enough, by September 1965, there it was, 1500 feet in the air with a solid mobile range of 50 miles. Needless to say, 2 meter FM interest skyrocketed. The "nuts" who climbed around on that 1500 foot tower to install antennas were K5DFZ, WA5BSB, K5VQY, and W5SDA. Ed took care of the installation and service of the repeater for about 18 months, before the



Don't forget the Ice Cream Social, August 14th.
Contact Ross, W5HFF, w5hff@juno.com if you
would like to help or bring ice Cream.

glamour was exhausted. Where upon, he insisted that some of us mere mortals could do it. He was tired. By this time a spare repeater had been installed with remote switching and instant servicing was no longer necessary. Ray, W5DLC, took over as chief technician.

Everything was going smooth until July 7, 1966, when Dick Vaughn, FCC engineer, swooped down upon us. He insisted that this station emitting such a powerful signal on 146.88 MHZ had to have a license. He also mumbled something about wanting to know who he served the violation notices to. When the smoke cleared, Ed, W5SDA, and Leon, W5VCE, were the recipients of real scary violation notices, and the repeater was real silent. In all fairness to Dick, although he wanted to see the repeater operation continue, he just wanted it to be legal. He insisted it wasn't all that difficult to have a license, log and ID. During the next week Ed divided his time equally between reading that scary violation notice and building a robot which sent call letters in CW every three minutes. On July 14, Ed had the robot CW operator in place. Leon had a receiver feeding into the tape machine at Police Headquarters for logging and Byrum, W5LGQ, had loaned us the SWARC Club call, K5YJG/5.

Everything was ready. Ed called the FCC office and meekly asked Dick if we could throw the switch. Dick seemed to be satisfied, providing the KPRC engineers acted as attending operators and turn it off, when not in attendance. So now we were back in operation again, at least part of the time.

The big push now was to get a club formed and get our own license with remote privileges to make for 24-hour operation. Also, something had to be done about securing our own logging recorder. The Houston Radio Relay Club was formed July 20, 1966, with directors as follows:

President	K5DFZ
Vice-president	WA5BSB
Secretary	WA5BUV
Treasurer	W5SDA
Programs	K5IHK
Membership	W5VCE

License was applied for with W5SDA as trustee. As soon as the license returned, we were able to go to full period operation, since we now had remote control privileges. A tape recorder was found and rigged for logging, and the Houston Radio Relay Club now enjoyed a good, legal repeater station. The next several months were not completely uneventful, what with several exercises and a few emergencies

proving the repeater to be a community asset, as well as a lot of fun.

An election of new officers on January 31, 1968, brought the following group into office:

President	K5VQY
Vice-president	K5DFZ
Secretary	W5SDA
Programs	W5DLC
Membership	WA5JDI

This brings the back ground history up-to-date. [up to date for 1968] There are [were] approximately 230 operators using the repeater at this time.

The KARS-HVRA Auction-Swapmeet is coming up this Sept 13th and we are looking for folks interested in speaking. A talk on the Red Cross Ham Station would be great, as well as the new ECHO certification program. Or, a topic that may be important to you. Please let me know if you are willing to give a talk. Charles Knobloch
<knobcls@omnilaw.com>

July 10th General Membership Meeting

The July 10th General Membership meeting featured a "wrap-up" report on Field Day activities from Allen Brier, N5XZ -- The Fox 26 News Clip is now available in .mpg format on the BVARC website.

Paul, N0JAA and Allen, N5XZ then proceeded with an update on current pending status of legislative matters of vital interest to all amateur radio operators. ARRL is expending massive efforts in support of the 2003 Spectrum Protection Act (HR 718 & S 537). In addition, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act of 2003 (HR 1478), effecting those Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's) which serve as private land use regulations that are pervasive and routinely used to frustrate the Federal interest in promoting Amateur Radio communication. Passage would reinforce the ability of the FCC to promulgate and enforce reasonable regulation of transmitter, receiver, and antenna issues.

All are urged to contact each of our US Senators, and your individual Member of the US House of Representatives in support of these measures to enhance and support amateur radio on the Homeland Defense and Security front.

2003 Club Officers:

President:

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
n5vcx@worldnet.att.net

Vice President:

Allen Brier, N5XZ
abrier@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer:

Mack Arp, W5EET
w5eet@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:

Joe Morgan, K5JWM
k5jwm@att.net

One Year Board Member:

Dave Scott, WD8RZA
wd8rza@aol.com

Two Year Board Member:

Ross Lawler, W5HFF
w5hff@juno.com

Past President:

Kevin Foto, KD5O
foto@texas.net

Club Happenings:

General Meeting

Second Thursday each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
224 Matlage Way

Board of Directors Meeting

First Thursday of each month,
Sugar Land Community Center,
224 Matlage Way

Volunteer Examiner Program

BVARC administers Amateur License
Exams on the 2nd Tuesday of each
month at the HCC Scarcella Technology
Campus, 10141 Cash Rd. in Stafford.
Contact John Moore, KK5NU

Eating Schedule

Third Friday Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Location announced in the calendar.

Saturday morning breakfasts –

7:00 a.m. New York Coffee Shop
9720 Hillcroft, Houston
7:30 a.m. Viking Den
2939 S. Main, Stafford

Rag Chew Net

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays
at 7:00 p.m.

Public Service Net

Monday night on 145.47 (123 PL) at
9:00 PM

Rag Chew Net

By Joe Morgan, K5JWM

3910 KHz +/-3KHz Wednesdays at 7:00 pm,

Just WHAT IS the Rag Chew Net? Well it's a chance for you to get on the low bands and hang out with other BVARC members, as well as hams from around the south central US! WHAT?? Don't have voice privileges? Got a short-wave receiver? Dial in and listen, then check in using the telephone number announced at the beginning of each net.

06/04/03__K5JWM, K5HFF, N5CPA, K5VRJ, AB5BA KB9WVG, K5LBU, AB5RJ, W5UFG, WB5VYR, N5VXU check-ins (10)

06/11/03__K5JWM, N5CPA, K5CEK, K5VRJ, AB5BA K5HFF, N5VXU, KA5JKI, WB5SRN, K5NDN check-ins (11)

06/18/03__K5JWM, KC5JAR, K5CEK, WA5VRB, N5CPA W5GHK, KD5QPX, KB5F, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5HFF check-ins (10)

06/25/03__K5JWM, N5CPA, K5VRJ, AB5BA, K5LJ, K5CEK K5FWQ, WA5VRB, K5HFF, N5VXU, K5LKJ, W5UFG check-ins (13)

Minutes of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors Meeting

July 10, 2003

Attendees: President; Mike Hardwick-N5VCX, 2 -Year Director/Club Elmer Ross Lawler-W5HFF, Corresponding Secretary/ Treasurer, Mack C Arp-W5EET, Vice President Allen Brier N5XZ, 1-Year, Past President Kevin Foto KD5O, Recording Secretary, Joe W Morgan - K5JWM Meeting called to order at 6:07 PM by President Mike Hardwick.

Mike Hardwick thanks all who help and operated at the field day and a big thanks to Orin field day coordinator for this year field day 2003. Talked about post office printing and mailing newsletter.

Emergency Business: Bank statements still need to be bought up to date. Consolidation of Field Day expenses and any other club Expenses. Mike still working on the by-laws.

Old Business: Joe still working on new email roster for mass email.

Ross W5HFF is coordinating the ice cream social for August 14th.

New Business: Mack will try to get somebody for Sept program on emergency communications .Joe will do some research on Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club for 20 year celebration or Program. E-mail notifications for BOD & General meeting. Talked about taking poll on what members want.

Announcements: Ice Cream Social August 14th Katy Flatland Bike Ride-July 20th

Membership count:123

Adjourn: 7:14

Respectfully submitted by Recording Secretary Joe W Morgan-K5JWM

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Results of the June 9th Testing Session

by John Moore, KK5NU

BVARC administered the ARRL-VEC Amateur Radio Examination session that was held on Tuesday, July 8th, 2003 at HCC's Scarcella Technology Campus here in Stafford.

MEMBERS OF THE VE TEAM:

- Dennis D. Deitrich, W5DDD
- Louis House, KD5GM
- Larry Jacobson, K5LJ
- John Moore, KK5NU
- George Ontiko, KM5VP

Four examination elements were administered during the evening to four applicants. Two unlicensed candidates received their new Technician licenses; and a Tech Plus grandfather upgraded to General, with the total number of elements passed being 3. The overall "pass rate" for the evening was 75%.

Congratulations to the following who passed an exam and/or upgraded:

- David C. Atwood - WB7RXB - General
- John S. Denison - (KD5YOU) - Technician
- Charles A. Jones - {KD5YOT} - Technician

Many thanks to all the team members and assistants who volunteer their valuable time and effort each month. All of us at BVARC thank everyone at HCC Scarcella Technology Center for making these excellent classroom facilities available to us for our exams each month.

August session will be on the FIRST Tuesday of the month (Aug. 5th)

Public Service Net

Doug Woodruff, KC5VYZ - Coordinator

The Public Service Net meets every Monday night on 145.47 (123 PL) at 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

6/2 - 28 - Cam, k5cam
6/9 - 29 - Kevin, kd5o
6/16 - 23 - Joe, k5jwm
6/23 - 23 - Doug, kc5vyz
6/30 - 35 - John, k5lkj
7/7 - 29 - Cam, k5cam
7/14 - 19 - Doug, kc5vyz
7/21 - 29 - Joe, k5jwm

Public Service Events

By Mike Hardwick, N5VCX, President

Here are a few events for the next few months. Come out and help and put your license and radio to a good use. If you like the hobby, this is one of the best ways to promote the hobby and help a worthy cause at the same time. Remember, one of the main reasons for amateur radio is to help the community. If interested in these events, call me and I will send you the information. 713-771-4625 or e-mail n5vcx@arrl.net.

Bike to the Lake Tour September 20/21, 2003 Loop ride Katy to Lake Somerville back to Katy 35 operators needed for event communications.

Wings Over Houston Air Show October 18/19, 2003

Jamboree Over the Air (JOTA) October 18/19, 2003

MS150 Bike Ride April 17 & 18, 2004

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August 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 See below West Gulf Division Austin, TX
3	4 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	5 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	6 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	7 BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	8	9 See below
10	11 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	12 VE Session 6:30 pm AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	13 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	14 Ice Cream Social 7:30 pm	15 See below	16 See below
17	18 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	19 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	20 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	21	22	23 See below
24	25 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	26 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	27 HF Net 7:00pm 3910 +/-3KHz	28	29	30 See below

AUGUST 15, 6:30p.m.(sharp) at THE HICKORY BARN BARBECUE, 11534 Wilcrest, 1-1/2 blocks N. of the S.W. FRWY. & 1/2 block S. of W. Belfort. Saturday morning breakfasts 7.00 a.m. New York Coffee Shop. 9720 Hillcroft, Houston. 7:30 a.m. Viking Den 2939 S. Main, Stafford.

September 2003

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	2	3 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	4 BOD Meeting 7:30 pm	5	6 See below
7	8 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	9 VE Session 6:30 pm AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	10 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	11 Club Meeting 7:30 pm	12	13 See below
14	15 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	16 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	17 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	18	19 See below	20 See below
21	22 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	23 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz	24 HF Net 7:00 pm 3910 +/-3KHz	25	26	27 See below
28	29 Net 9:00 pm 145.470	30 AMSAT Net 8:00 p.m. 145.470 MHz				

Third Friday Dinner: 6:30 p.m.(sharp) at PANDA GARDEN CHINESE RESTAURANT, 1043 Eldridge Road at Jesse Pirtle Blvd. In Sugar Land. (1 mile +/- N. of US90A.) . Saturday morning breakfasts 7.00 a.m. New York Coffee Shop. 9720 Hillcroft, Houston. 7:30 a.m. Viking Den 2939 S. Main, Stafford.



**Monthly Publication of the Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club.
Serving Amateur Radio for Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County**

Club Call sign - KC5OIG, W5DPA
BVARC's Website: <http://www.hal-pc.org/~bvarc>
Editor: Marie Schaer, KD5UJT, schaer@hal-pc.org
Production Team: Claude Sessions, K5HFY, k5hfy@arrl.net
John Moore, KK5NU, jwm@hal-pc.org

The Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club (BVARC) was organized in 1978, primarily as an emergency communications group available to assist the communities of Missouri City and Stafford when required. Since that time, BVARC has grown and expanded its activities to become the most active amateur radio club in Southwest Houston and Fort Bend County.

Today, BVARC is truly a general interest club with an impressive record of Public Service. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) has recognized the clubs commitment to service with the coveted status of Special Service Club. We are proud of our members who represent the some of the finest in amateur radio. Membership is not limited to licensed operators, but is open to anyone with an interest in amateur radio. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at the Sugar Land Community Center. Talk-in assistance is available in the 145.470, and 444.550 MHz (PL 123.0) repeaters. Membership dues are \$20 per year.

BVARC administers ARRL-VEC license exam sessions on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. A Public Service Net is held at 9 PM. each Monday on the Memorial Emergency Radio Association's 145.47 & 444.55 repeaters.

To obtain information about joining BVARC or its activities contact the Club's "Elmer", Ross, W5HFF at 281-342-3340 or w5hff@juno.com.

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July 2003

**BRAZOS VALLEY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. BOX 1630
MISSOURI CITY TX 77459-1630
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

**Membership Meeting on August 14th
Ice Cream Social time so don't forget!
7:30p.m., Sugar Land Community Center**

If your mailing label is highlighted in color its time to renew your membership